

Remarks/Arguments

Claims 1-36 are pending in this Application. In the Office Action mailed on the date of August 19, 2005, the Examiner requested the Application be restricted to one of the following inventions:

- Group I: Claims 1-31 and 36, drawn to an optical fiber-based, four path, low-coherence reflectometer and corresponding methods, as well as a polarization-maintaining optical fiber sample path used in such a reflectometer, classified in class 385, subclass 11; and
- Group II: Claims 32-35, drawn to data processing methods for determining particular optical functions, classified in class 702, subclass 28.

Restriction/Election

On page 2 of the Office Action, the Examiner requested that Applicants elect one invention to be examined even though the requirement may be traversed. Applicants hereby provisionally elect Group I—Claims 1-31 and 36, drawn to an optical fiber-based, four path, low-coherence reflectometer and corresponding methods—with traverse for continued examination. It is requested that Claims 32-35 be withdrawn from further prosecution. Any claim cancellation will be made upon the filing of a divisional application.

Traversal is argued on the grounds that a thorough search of the subject matter of Claims 1-31 and 36, and the non-elected subject matter of Claims 32-35 would necessarily include a search of similar subject matter because Claims 32-35 characterize elements as provided by Group I claims. Hence, examination of all embodiments on the merits would impose no additional burden on the Patent Office. *See* MPEP 803.

Conclusion

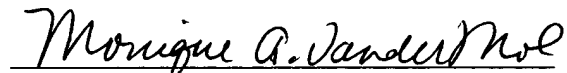
In light of the remarks and arguments presented above, favorable consideration and allowance of the pending claims is therefore respectfully requested.

No fees are believed to be due with this Amendment. If this is incorrect, Applicants hereby authorize the Commissioner to charge any fees, other than the issue fee, that may be required by this paper to Deposit Account 07-0153.

If the Examiner has any questions or comments, or if further clarification is required, it is requested that the Examiner contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Dated: November 21, 2005

Respectfully submitted,
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